



Council 4 AFSCME Testimony
Committee 2/4/15

Planning and Development

My name is Brian Anderson. I am a legislative and political representative for Council 4 AFSCME, a union of 32,000 Connecticut public and private employee members.

Council 4 opposes:

**Proposed H.B. No. 5085 AN ACT AUTHORIZING OVERSIGHT
OVER NONEDUCATIONAL EXPENSES IN SCHOOL BUDGETS BY
MUNICIPAL BOARDS OF FINANCE.**

This bill violates the separation that exists between boards of education and the rest of municipal government. Connecticut has long respected that boards of education are independent and should make their own decisions on their governance. Custodial, maintenance, cafeteria and other services inside of schools are the jurisdiction of boards of education. They should remain so. To put this responsibility in the hands of a separate municipal entity is likely to lead to poor coordination and mismanagement.

**Proposed H.B. No. 5096 AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD
REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE OF UNFUNDED MANDATES.**

This bill creates an artificial and onerous hurdle for state governance and coordination of municipal law. As most legislators know, it is virtually impossible to get two thirds of the legislature to agree on anything of consequence. State law governing municipalities includes everything from the painting of yellow lines down the middle of highways and traffic lights to non-discrimination and transparency statutes.

This bill does damage to the democratic process in that our system has incorporated a simple majority as the requirement for changing or creating law. This is because a simple majority is more reflective of democracy than a higher hurdle of two thirds, three quarters or the like.

Instead of focusing narrowly on ways to limit or cut public services at a time when we need them more than ever, we urge you to look at comprehensive revenue reform, including ways to reduce our state's over-reliance on the property tax.